Revenue Procedure 2005-21

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Publication 4436

General Rules and Specifications for Substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941)



NOTE. This revenue procedure will be reproduced as IRS Publication 4436, General Rules and Specifications for Substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941).

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Section 1 – Purpose

- .01 The purpose of this publication is to provide general rules and specifications from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for paper and computer-generated substitutes for the newly revised January 2005 version of Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return, and Schedule B (Form 941), Report of Tax Liability for Semiweekly Schedule Depositors.
- **.02** This publication provides measurements and printing specifications for substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941). If you need more in-depth information on who must complete the forms and how to complete them, see the Instructions for Form 941 and Publication 15 (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, or visit the IRS website at *www.irs.gov*.
- .03 Forms should not be submitted to the IRS for specific approval. If you are uncertain of any specification and want it clarified, you may submit a letter citing the specification and your understanding of the specification, and enclose an example of the form (if appropriate) to:

Internal Revenue Service Attn: Substitute Forms Program SE:W:CAR:MP:T:T:SP, IR-6406 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20024

Note. Allow at least 30 days for the IRS to respond.

.04 However, software developers and form producers should send a blank copy of their substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) in pdf format to <u>Victor.V.Martin@irs.gov</u>. The purpose is not specifically for approval but to assist the IRS in preparing to scan these forms. Submitters will only receive comments if a significant problem is discovered

through this process. Submitters are not expected to delay marketing their forms in order to receive feedback. In no case should submitters include "live" taxpayer data.

Section 2 – What's New

- .01 We extensively revised Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) to enable the IRS to scan the forms and to make them easier to complete. Optical scanning of tax returns enables the IRS to capture data more accurately and efficiently. This will reduce our need to contact filers because of an error in recording amounts reported on their returns.
- .02 Because scanning requires conformity, we are publishing this revenue procedure to provide specifications for producing substitutes for the new revisions of Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941). It is acceptable to produce substitutes of Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) using the official IRS form as posted on the IRS website or to produce substitutes based on the format developed by the software industry, which uses a 6x10 grid. Either format must be precisely followed.
- .03 We now require filers to check a box at the top of Form 941 to indicate the tax period. We also require that line 1 ("number of employees") be completed for each quarter. We combined income and social security tax adjustments into a single line (line 7) and no longer require a supporting statement for tips or group-term life insurance adjustments. Because Form 941 is now two pages, filers must enter their name, Employer Identification Number (EIN), and signature on page 2.
- .04 There is a new form for reporting discrepancies between Forms 941 and Forms W-2. We recently developed Schedule D (Form 941), Report of Discrepancies Caused by Acquisitions, Statutory Mergers, or Consolidations. You may use Schedule D (Form 941) to explain the discrepancies between what an employer reported to the Social Security Administration on Form W-2 and what the employer reported to the IRS on Form 941, if the discrepancies are caused by acquisitions, statutory mergers, or consolidations. Areas where discrepancies may occur include social security wages, social security tips, Medicare wages and tips, federal income tax withheld, and advanced earned income payments. We did not include specifications for Schedule D (Form 941) in the exhibits (Section 7) because scanning of Schedule D (Form 941) is not available at this time. However, any substitute paper or computer-generated paper forms should generally follow the specifications for Form 941.

Section 3 – General Requirements for Reproducing IRS Official Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941)

- **.01 Do not** submit substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) to the IRS for approval. Substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) that **completely conform** to the specifications contained in this revenue procedure do not require prior approval from the IRS. Substitute forms filed with the IRS that do not conform may be returned.
- .02 Print the form on paper that is 8.5 inches wide by 11 inches deep.

.03 Use white paper that meets generally-accepted weight, color, and quality standards (minimum 20lb. white bond paper).

Note. Reclaimed fiber in any percentage is permitted provided that the requirements of this standard are met.

- **.04** The IRS prefers printing Form 941 on both sides of a single sheet of paper, but it is acceptable to print on one side of each of two separate sheets of paper.
- .05 Make substitute paper forms as identical to the official IRS-printed forms as possible.
- **.06** Print using nonreflective black inks.
- .07 Use typefaces that are substantially identical in size and shape to the official forms and use rules and shading that are substantially identical to those on the official forms.
- .08 Print the form ID codes in the upper right-hand corner of each form using nonreflective black, carbon-based, 12-point (minimum 10-point required) OCR-A font. Use the official paper over-the-counter IRS forms to develop your substitute paper forms. Print "9501" on page 1 of Form 941, "9502" on page 2 of Form 941, and "9503" on Schedule B (Form 941). See Section 4 for form ID codes for software-generated forms.
- .09 Print the OMB number in the same location as on the official forms.
- .10 Print all entry boxes and checkboxes exactly as shown on the official forms.
- .11 Print your IRS-issued three-letter substitute form printer source code in the middle at the bottom of page 1 of Form 941.
- .12 Print "For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the back of the Payment Voucher" at the bottom of page 1 of Form 941.
- .13 Print "For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions" at the bottom of Schedule B (Form 941).
- **.14** Do not print the form catalog number ("Cat. No.") at the bottom of the forms or instructions.
- .15 Do not print the Government Printing Office (GPO) symbol at the bottom of the forms or instructions.
- **.16** See Exhibits A and B in Section 7.

Section 4 – Reproducing Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) for Software-Generated Paper Forms

.01 You may use the 6x10 grid exhibits (C and D) at the end of this document to develop a software version of Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941). Please follow the specifications exactly to develop the fields.

- .02 If you are developing software that is designed using the 6x10 grid in the exhibits, you may make the following modifications. See Exhibits C and D in Section 7.
 - Use "9701" for page 1 of Form 941, "9702" for page 2 of Form 941, and "9703" for Schedule B (Form 941) as the form ID codes.
 - Place all boxes and entry spaces in the same fields as indicated in the 6x10 grid exhibits.
 - Use single lines for "Employer Identification Number" (EIN) and other entry areas in the entity section of page 1 of Form 941.
 - You do not need to use reverse type as shown on the IRS official form.
 - You do not need to pre-print decimal points in the data boxes. However, all amounts should be printed with decimal points and place holders for cents.
 - Use a single box for "state abbreviation" in line 14 of Form 941.
 - Delete the pre-printed formatting in the "date" box for line 16 and in Parts 5 and 6 of Form 941.
 - Delete the pre-printed formatting in the "Phone" box for Parts 4, 5, and 6.
 - Use a single box for "Personal Identification Number (PIN)" in Part 4 of Form 941.
 - You may delete all shading when using the 6x10 grid format.
- .03 If producing both the form and the data or the form only, print your 3-letter IRS-issued form printer source code in Row 63, Columns 49–51 on page 1 of Form 941.
- **.04** If producing only the data on the form, print your 4-digit software industry form code in Row 4, Columns 58–61 on page 1 of Form 941. See the National Association of Computerized Tax Processors (NACTP) website at <u>www.nactp.org</u> for information on these codes.
- **.05** Print "For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Payment Voucher" at the bottom of page 1 of Form 941.
- **.06** Print "For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions" at the bottom of Schedule B (Form 941).
- .07 Do not print the form catalog number ("Cat. No.") at the bottom of the forms or instructions.
- .08 Do not print the Government Printing Office (GPO) symbol at the bottom of the forms or instructions.
- **.09** To enable accurate scanning and processing, enter data on Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) as follows:
 - Use 12-point (minimum 10-point) Courier font (if possible).
 - Omit dollar signs, but use commas to show amounts.
 - Except for line 10, leave blank any data field with a value of zero.
 - Enter negative amounts in parentheses or with a minus sign.
 - Show name and EIN on all pages and attachments.

Section 5 – OMB Requirements for Substitute Forms

- .01 The Paperwork Reduction Act (the Act) of 1995 (Public Law 104-13) requires that:
 - The OMB approves all IRS tax forms that are subject to the Act.
 - Each IRS form contains the OMB approval number, if required. (The official OMB numbers may be found on the official IRS printed forms and are also shown in the exhibits.)
 - Each IRS form (or its instructions) states:
 - 1. Why the IRS needs the information,
 - 2. How it will be used, and
 - 3. Whether or not the information is required to be furnished to the IRS.
- .02 This information must be provided to any users of official or substitute IRS forms or instructions.
- .03 The OMB requirements for substitute IRS forms are:
 - Any substitute form or substitute statement to a recipient must show the OMB number as it appears on the official IRS form.
 - For Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941), the OMB number must appear exactly as shown on the official IRS form.
 - For any form, the OMB number must use one of the following formats.
 - 1. OMB No. XXXX-XXXX (preferred) or
 - 2. OMB# XXXX-XXXX (acceptable).
- **.04** If no instructions are provided to users on your forms, you must furnish to them the exact text of the Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.

Section 6 – Reproducible Copies of Forms

- **.01** You can order official IRS forms and information copies of federal tax materials by calling the IRS National Distribution Center at 1-800-829-3676. Other ways to get federal tax material include:
 - The Internet, at www.irs.gov.
 - GPO Superintendent of Documents Bookstores.
 - CD-ROM.
- **.02** The IRS also offers an alternative to downloading electronic files and provides current and prior year access to tax forms and instructions through its Federal Tax Forms CD-ROM. Order Publication 1796, IRS Federal Tax Products CD-ROM, by using the IRS website at www.irs.gov/cdorders or by calling 1-877-CDFORMS (1-877-233-6767).

Section 7 – Exhibits

.01 Please follow the specifications indicated in the following exhibits to produce substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941).

- .02 These forms are subject to review and possible change as required. Therefore, employers are cautioned against overstocking supplies of privately-printed substitutes.
- **.03 Do not** submit substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) to the IRS for approval. Substitute Form 941 and Schedule B (Form 941) that **completely conform** to the specifications contained in this revenue procedure may be privately printed without prior approval from the IRS. Substitute forms filed with the IRS that do not conform may be returned. See Section 3 of this publication.

Exhibit A, Form 941 (Official Version)

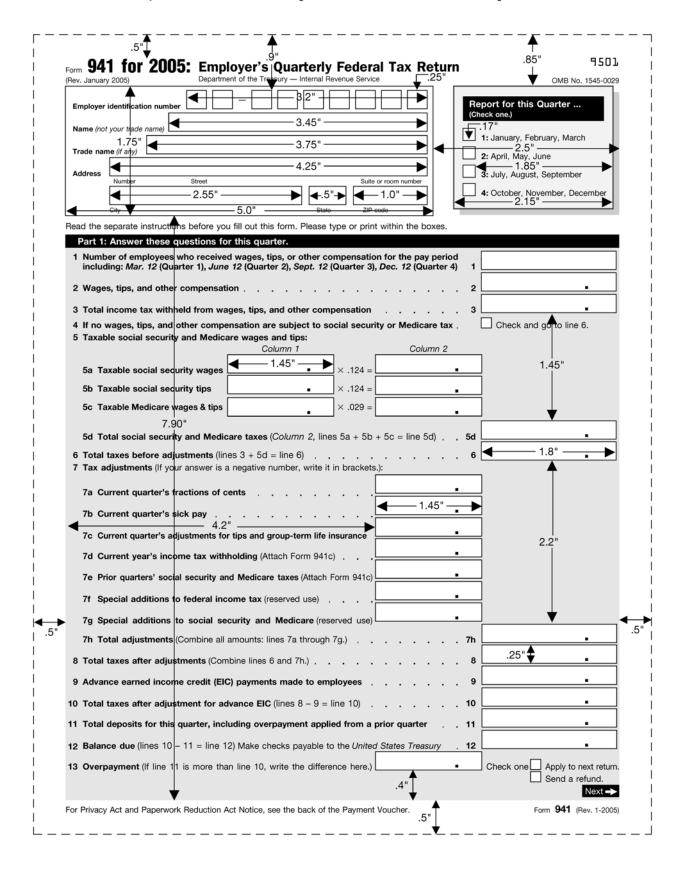


Exhibit A, Form 941 (Official Version) (continued)

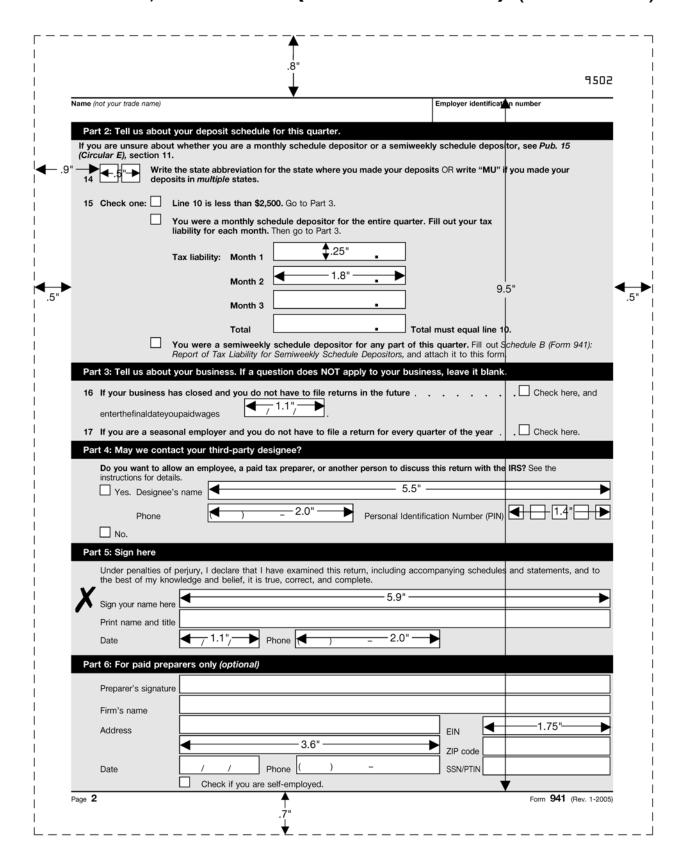


Exhibit B, Schedule B (Form 941) (Official Version)

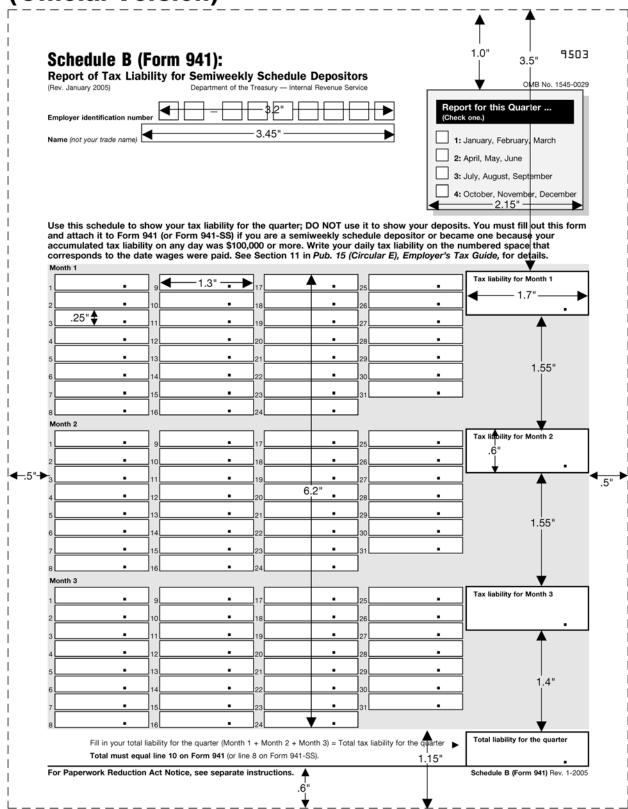


Exhibit C, Form 941 (6 x 10 Grid Version)

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1 2 3	3 4 5 6 7	8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0) 1 2 3 4 5
2						2
3						3
4		n 941 for 2005:		terly Federal Tax Re		, 4
5	(Rev	v. January 2005)	Department of the Treasur	/ Internal Revenue Service	OMB No. 1545-0029	5
6	Em	ployer identification numb	<u> </u>		Report for this Quarter (Check one.) 1: January, February, March	6
8	Em	ployer identification numb	er		1. January, February, March	8
9	Nai	me (not your trade name)			2: April, May, June	9
1 0		ide name (if any)				1
1	$\perp \perp \perp \perp$				3: July, August, September	1
2	Ad	dress				. 2
4					4: October, November, December	4
5	+					5
6	F		questions for this qua			6
7				other compensation for the pay opt. 12 (Quarter 3), Dec. 12 (Qu		7
8	$+++\downarrow$					8
2 0	2	Wages, tips, and other co	mpensation		2	9
1	3	Total income tax withheld	from wages, tips, and othe	r compensation		1
2						2
3	4			ct to social security or Medicar	e tax Check and go to line 6.	3
4	5	Taxable social security an	nd Medicare wages and tips Colum		Column 2	4
5		5a Taxable social secur		x .124 =		5
7		5a Taxable social secur	nty wages	X.124 =		7
8		5b Taxable social secur	rity tips	x .124 =		8
9						9
3 0		5c Taxable Medicare wa	ages & tips	x .029 =		3
1		Ed				1 1
3		5d Total social security	and Medicare taxes (Colum	nn 2, lines 5a + 5b + 5c = line 5d)5d [3
4	6	Total taxes before adjustn	nents (lines 3 + 5d = line 6)		6	4
5	7		nswer is a negative number,	enter it in brackets.):		5
6		7a Current quarter's fra	actions of cents			6
7						7
9		7b Current quarter's sid	ck pay		<u></u>	8
4 0		7c Current quarter's ad	justments for tips and grou	p-term life insurance		4
1				F 6		1
2		7d Current year's incon	ne tax withholding (Attach F	orm 941c)		2
3						3
5		7e Prior quarters' socia	al security and Medicare tax	es (Attach Form 941c)		4
6		7f Special additions to	federal income tax (reserve	duse)		6
7						7
8		7g Special additions to	social security and Medica	re (reserved use)		8
9						9
5 0		7h Total adjustments (C	Combine all amounts; lines 7a	through 7g.)	7h	5
2	8	Total taxes after adjustme	ents (Combine lines 6 and 7h	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	8	2
3	HI	Total taxes until dajasano	THE CONTENTS INTO 5 WITH 711	"		3
4	9	Advance earned income of	redit (EIC) payments made	to employees	9	4
5	1					5
6	10	Total taxes after adjustme	ent for advance EIC (lines 8	- 9 = line 10)		6
8	11	Total deposits for this qua	arter, including overnaymer	nt applied from a prior quarter.	11	7 8
9	1111	. J.ai deposits for tills que	a, morearing overpaymen	applied itom a prior qualter.		9
6 0	12	Balance due (lines 10 - 11	= line 12) Make checks paya	ble to the United States Treasur	y	6
1						1
2	-		more than line 10, enter the c		Check one Apply to next return.	2
3 4	For	Privacy Act and Paperwork	k Reduction Act Notice, see	me rayment voucner.	Form 941 (Rev. 1-2005) Sendarefund.	3
5				 		5
6						6
		1 2	3	4 5	7 8	3

Exhibit C, Form 941 (6 x 10 Grid Version) (continued)

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	Employer Identification number	
posit schedule for this qua	orter.	
are a monthly schedule deposito	r or a semiweekly schedule depositor, see Pub. 15 (Circular E),	
ation for the state where you mad	e your deposits OR enter "MU" if you made your deposits in multiple	
	o your doposite en sites into in you made your doposite in manape	
than \$2,500. Go to Part 3.		
onthly schedule denositor for the	entire quarter. Fill out your tax liability	
th. Then go to Part 3.	chara quartor. I in our your and madinity	
Month 1		
Month 2		
Month 3		
Total	Total must equal line 10	
emiweekly schedule depositor for	any part of this quarter. Fill out Schedule B (Form 941):	
siness. If a question does	NOT apply to your business, leave it blank.	
I you do not have to file returns in	the future Check here, and	
es .		
	rn for every quarter of the year [] Check nere.	
	r person to discuss this return with the IRS? See instructions for details.	
		
	<u> </u>	
	Personal Identification Number (PIN)	
	including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my	
oriest, and complete.		
		7
		
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	EIN	
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Phone	SSN/PTIN	
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	ation for the state where you made than \$2,500. Go to Part 3. onthly schedule depositor for the th. Then go to Part 3. Month 1 Month 2 Month 3 Total emiweekly schedule depositor for inability for Semiweekly Schedule Desiness. If a question does I you do not have to file returns in the part of the pa	onthly schedule depositor for the entire quarter. Fill out your tax liability th. Then go to Part 3. Month 1 Month 2 Month 3 Total Total Total must equal line 10. Individual Expositor for any part of this quarter. Fill out Schedule B (Form 941): Liability for Semiweekly Schedule Depositors, and attach it to this form. Siness. If a question does NOT apply to your business, leave it blank. Lyou do not have to file returns in the future

Exhibit D, Schedule B (Form 941) (6 x 10 Grid Version)

